

In regard to Groups I and II, the Office has characterized the relationship between these two groups as "process of making and product made." Citing MPEP §806.05(f), the Office suggests the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process such as "curing recording material and applying pretreatment liquid on the surface of a curable pressure sensitive recording material". However, there is no evidence of record to show that the claimed products could be made as the Office has alleged. If, in fact, the claimed product can be made by the alleged process, the Office has failed to show that the alleged process is materially different from the claimed process. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement is unsustainable, and it should therefore be withdrawn.

In regard to Groups I and III, the Office has characterized the relationship between these two groups as product and process of use. Citing MPEP §806.05(h), the Office concludes that the process as claimed can be practiced with dye coating. However, the Office has not provided reasons and/or examples to support this conclusion. Further, the Office has failed to show that the proposed process is materially different from the claimed use. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in order to sustain the Restriction Requirement. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

The Office has characterized the inventions of Groups II and III as unrelated. Citing MPEP §806.04 and MPEP §808.01, the Office concludes that "the intermediate product is deemed to be useful as a coating material for a surface". However, the Office has not provided sufficient reasons and/or examples to support this assertion. The Office has merely stated the conclusion. Accordingly, the Office has failed to meet the burden necessary in

order to sustain the Restriction Requirement. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully traverse on the grounds that the Office has not shown that a burden exists in searching the entire application.

Further, MPEP §803 states as follows:

If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on its merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

Applicants submit that a search of all claims would not constitute a serious burden on the Office.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for examination on the merits, and early notice of such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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